



November 13, 1998

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Dear Ted,

Thank you for your letter of November 3, which arrived today. Your comments on Michael Mello's book, and your relationship to him, were helpful.

Mike (that's how he announces himself on the phone) is, as you say, completely honest. I enjoyed talking to him the five times that I have had occasion to do so. The "loose cannon" comment (I also told him that I thought this, since it was my only apprehension regarding his involvement with you) was initiated by what I feared might be the "psychology" of that involvement.

When he first contacted me, five sentences had not left his lips before he mentioned the mail bomb that killed his mentor. The affect was that I reacted to everything he said, and especially everything he asked me, with caution. Here was my reason: His experience with a mail bomb caused me to suspect his motives for contacting you. Since you are familiar with the text of *Industrial Society and its Future*, I will say that I suspected him of the masochistic tendencies and unconscious agenda associated with leftists. I then thought, if this was the case, he might be dangerous to you, since he would not be working for your benefit — to the contrary, he would be exorcising, come-what-may, his own personal demons. I now believe that he is genuinely aligned with you and your needs and my trust has become implicit. I also like him on a personal level.

I would be mistaken to assume what your reactions were vis-à-vis Mello's book, which we have provisionally re-titled *The United States of America vs Theodore J. Kaczynski: Ethics, Power, and the Invention of the Unabomber*. Mike told me that you objected to the John Brown parallel, and I understand your objection on that score. I think he uses it as a hitching post of sorts for his discussion. I do think the book is a positive contribution, and marks the first in what I believe will be a flood of literature on the subject. As such, I am very interested in acquiring his book, and he has agreed. So, I must thank you for your generosity of spirit in turn.

I think the simultaneous publication of *Truth versus Lies*, Mello's book, and *Industrial Society and its Future* would make a powerful statement. I am currently looking into what would be required to make that happen. I would of course need your approval before any final decision was made regarding the manner in which these books are to be released. A further note, Mello told me about Alston Chase's book, and I am curious to know more about it.

As for *Industrial Society and its Future*, I would of course like to have the authorized version, although I understand that this is impossible since no name (i.e., author) can be attached to the text. Your generosity regarding the texts in your possession is met with gratitude. I would feel privileged to use the most accurate version of the text and perhaps run the covering letter to the *Times* as an appendix. So, I will take advantage of your kind offer and I look very much forward to receiving the documents in question.

There is something else I have been meaning to bring up with you. As you know by now, I have dedicated myself to engendering a more accurate, historical understanding of the Unabomber. This understanding would need to go beyond the bombings (they were so many flares sent up in society's dark night) to the rationale, specifically in connection with the publication of *Industrial Society and its Future* (which a large audience could only "find" with the guidance provided by those flares). Were there not the issue of self-interest, I would write an essay about the invention of the Unabomber. My belief is at odds with popular perception: He tips heavy on the scales of history as a thinker. For lack of a better term, he is an anarchist. I say this with the assumption that you will understand anarchism to signify the intellectual, practical mode of existing in society commonly associated with the term and not the loose manner in which it is used to signify a vague state of lawlessness. It would be laughable to pigeon-hole the Unabomber as an anarchist only, as his writings are also philosophical in their discussion of the practical issues that affect individuals living in contemporary society. I would like someone to write an essay that addresses the mistaken public understanding of the Unabomber. The question then is this: Who should write it? I think it should appear in *The New Yorker* or *Vanity Fair*, since these magazines have large circulation and an "intellectual" audience. Perhaps Bill Finegan could write it. I would like to know whether or not you think this idea to be wise and/or of interest.

I received a memorandum dated November 4, the day after you signed your last letter, from the prison authorities. It informed me that prison regulations forbid, among other things, the enclosure of stamped envelopes for your use. Please let me know if you would like an unstamped envelope enclosed with future correspondence, as this is not against prison regulations.

Quin Denvir sent the electronic files of *Truth versus Lies*, and I have received them. Thank you. I hope to receive your comments on the contract on Monday. I suppose they were held up for inspection before getting sent to me. As ever, I hope this note finds you well.

My best,

 Brian .